The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 13, NO. 14. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1923. WHOLE NO. 637.

R. R. Labor Board Censure Reveals Company "Union" Fake

Like a toy balloon punctured with a charge of buckshot, the company "union" of the Pennsylvania railroad flattens out before the public censure of the railroad labor board.

The board says that the company's dictation whom employes shall select as representatives is "indefensible."

The censure is the result of an order that the railroad management shall permit shop men to vote for representatives without company dictation.

In that order, issued July 21, 1921, the board was so neutral it leaned backward and clearly indicated that its decision must not be construed as favoring trade unionism.

The board included a sample ballot in its decision. This ballot was designed to permit shop men to vote for the bona fide shop men's unions, or for a secession movement of railroad workers, or "for any other organization," or even for any individual.

Under this ballot the workers could even vote for representatives of the company "union" if they so desired.

The only thing the board insisted on was that the workers should be free from company coercion or influence, and that the company should take no part in the proceedings.

This was unsatisfactory to the railroad, as it would take control of the election out of its hands.

The railroad wants the sole right to name the company representatives, and it ignored the board's order that a new election be held.

Now, after nearly two years in the federal courts and in negotiating with the company, the labor board has finally issued its censures.

The company is reproved not because it failed to recognize a trade union but because it refused to permit employes to choose representatives that the company has not first selected.

What other proof is necessary to convince workers that the company "union" or so-called "employe representation" is an anti-union device; that it is intended to supersede collective bargaining?

If workers are not permitted to select their own representatives, when wages and working conditions are to be negotiated, what is the difference between them and underlings?

If the employer nominates the workers' representatives, as well as the company's, who sets wages and working conditions? What effective part does the employe take in these negotiations?

It is not possible to make a clearer illustration of the difference between trade unionism and the bosses' system.

Neither is it necessary to present one other reason why Pennsylvania and its kind establish their hand-picked "union" to fight organized labor.

This opposition to trade unionism can be explained in one sentence—the company "union" can be controlled and the trade union can not.

It is too much to expect that the Pennsylvania will abandon its fake "union."

A public censure has the same effect on one of these corporations as a dash of water against an image of brass.

Industrial autocrats ever yields voluntarily and those who would control the lives of workers are not easily discouraged.

The entire proceedings reveal the helplessness of a government board in attempting to deal with feudal barons.

Organizations of labor is the one power that can force justice from stiff-necks of the Pennsylvania type.

If the shop men on this railroad would brave the army of spies, and organize, they will soon bring these industrial sheiks to a sense of justice.

Power is the one and only argument they will listen to.

That they look upon organized labor as a challenge to their autocracy is indicated by their efforts to find a substitute for the trade union movement.

SOCIAL COMMON SENSE APPROVES 8-HOUR DAY

Washington, June 23.—The United States women's bureau has printed in pamphlet form a defense of the eight-hour day by Miss Mary Van Kleeck, first director of the bureau.

"Experience shows that the most effective results are achieved for the industry and for the worker by keeping daily hours always at a reasonable level," she says. "Exact medical examination of the individual is not necessary to demonstrate the desirability of the eight-hour day.

Miss Van Kleeck referred to a statement by a group of employers who wanted "scientific proof by medical men" before they would accept an eight-hour day for women.

"Obviously exact statistics on that point are not available. We need here a combination of what might be called social common sense and scientific procedure. We have had scientific procedure in determining that fatigue is physiological, and that from fatigue one must rest if it is not to become exhausting. That is the scientific basis for setting some limit to the machine which otherwise would run all day long, and all night, and the night, because the machine does not know fatigue.

"But it is not necessary for us to study everyone of the occupations in industry and determine a different working day for each of them.

"Upon the basis of a social growing standard we must build, using as our method the scientific and technical facts which show us how to arrive at the goal which is set by our social vision.

"Our social vision grows out of our experience as to what is good for our communities."

"NO NORTH, NO SOUTH" FOR TEXTILE WORKERS

Fall River, Mass., June 23.—"We recognize no north, or south," is the message given to Lamar Jeffers, vice president of the textile council of the Carolinas, by the New England conference board of the United Textile Workers. The southern trade unionist is also editor of the Charlotte (N. C.) Herald. He came to Fall River to acquaint the New England conference with conditions in the south.

"In our country," he said "they are telling us that unless we play the manufacturers' game, the Yankees will come down there and get a lot of damned foreigners' will take our jobs."

The southerner said this propaganda is so widespread and so generally believed that some textile workers in the south would be surprised if they came to Fall River and found that the English language is actually used.

The speaker referred to a group of Fall River secessionists who visited the south for the alleged purpose of "finding facts." They were chiefly manufacturers and other business men, and in return they advised the employes how to evade the United Textile Workers of America.

REVISE LIABILITY LAW.

Austin, Texas, June 23.—The new state compensation law, passed by the last legislature, is now in operation. Under it a man's life is valued at $7,200, as against $5,400 under the old law.

Formerly injured workmen were entitled to receive reasonable medicine and hospital service for thirty days. This has been changed to two weeks.

The law formerly provided that an injured person should receive 60 per cent of his average weekly wages, but in no case less than $15 nor more than $15. The amendment provides for a minimum of $7 and a maximum of $20.

WILL TAB IDLENESS.

Zanesville, Ohio, June 23.—Secretary Bender of sub-district No. 6 has called on all miners to aid him in keeping a record of the cause of idleness in mines in this jurisdiction. He says that coal owners have this information, and in many instances the miners' leaders have not. At the present time the United States coal commission is asking for information that the miners have, Bender says Secretary Bender.

"If members will aid in compiling what may often seem unimportant figures we will be able to defend the interest of the miners when they are being maliciously attacked," he said.

PICKETING IS LEGAL.

Montreal, Quebec, June 23.—After 20 minutes' deliberation a jury in the king's bench court gave a verdict in favor of striking cloak makers that picketing is legal. The cloak makers in the city and in Toronto are combatting anti-union influences.

PROTECT LUMBER COOKS.

Seattle, Wash., June 23.—One of the new state laws, just made effective, protects cooks in lumber camps. Formerly they were exploited, but now they will have a labor lien on all products of the camp.

WOMEN'S 8-HOUR BILL TRAVELS ROCKY ROAD

Springfield, Ill., June 23.—The women's eight-hour bill, recently passed by the state house of representatives, has been turned into a weapon of oppression by the senate. Organized labor has discovered the "joker" but is confident a majority of the senators will acknowledge they were caught napping.

Senator Hicks of Rockford induced his colleagues to amend the house bill by authorizing the state industrial commission to make rules for the work day in various industries. The plan also provides that a court may pass upon the commission's orders.

In opposing this amendment, officers of the state federation of labor say:

"The power conferred upon the commission is of such a peculiar nature that it may, on one extreme, authorize the employment of women and girls in certain places 12 or 14 hours a day or even longer, while, if it chooses to go to the other extreme, it may, in effect, practically bar women and girls from certain employments. In some respects, therefore, the Hicks amendment would set up an industrial court whose regulatory or prohibitive powers, through the chancery jurisdiction of the circuit courts, might ultimately be directed against the persons of the women and girls instead of only against the firms and corporations which employ them.

"There is some evidence, however, that the Hicks amendment was adopted by the senate without any clear understanding of its terms."

LABOR NOT SERVILE IS BOSSES' PLAINT

Los Angeles, June 23.—Labor has an "independent attitude" and high wages threaten "the general prosperous business conditions now existing here," are the characteristics given by the southern California mill owners' association in a plea for funds to advertise in eastern and northern states for mill workers to come to California.

The mill owners say that the workers' "independent attitude" and their demand for more wages will wreck business and the only remedy is to flood Los Angeles with workers from such a distance that when they get into here they can't get back.

The mill owners indicate that they will promise every worker a job, though they say the real purpose in so doing is to check wage raises and make workers more dependent on the boss.

"We are aware that there is plenty of work everywhere, but southern California is a magnet for thousands of mechanics if they were only notified work.

"We ask you to assist in this campaign and our committee has made a grant-in-aid appropriation. If they will bring enough funds to carry it along for several months."

MINERS' TRIAL FINANCED BY ANTI-UNION COAL MEN

Lewisburg, W. Va., June 23.—This little town is the third location of the court attack of anti-union coal owners against organized miner workers.

Again are Frank Keeney, Fred Mooney and William Blizzard, officers of the United Mine Workers, facing charges that they were accessories before the fact in the murder of a deputy sheriff, who was killed in 1921 at the time the miners marched on Logan county.

The trials were removed from Logan county to Charleston, Kanawha county, to Berkeley county, and from there to this place. An anti-union county coal operators' association is financing the trials. This is done by cashing the warrants issued against the miners by Logan county. That county is supposed to bear the expense of the trials.

HUGE PROFITS IN OIL.

Philadelphia, June 23.—In advertising a $4,000,000 bond issue of the Sun oil company, a statement says:

"During the past 10 years the company has reported earnings of $40,000,000, applicable to dividends. Of this amount about $5,000,000 was paid in dividends and over $35,000,000 was reinvested in the business."

This means that the company's clear profits for the past 10 years has averaged a little more than $3,000,000 a year, and that of the latter sum all has been turned back in the business.

NEW YORK BARBERS OUT

New York, June 22.—More than 2,000 barbers employed in the northern section of the city, are on strike for wage increases and other concessions. They demand union recognition, that many instances may be taken up with employers.

DRASTIC INCOME TAX.

Madison, Wis., June 23.—By a vote of 64 to 17 the general assembly engrossed the Dahl general income tax bill. The proposal calls for a graduated tax on individual incomes ranging from 1 per cent on the first $1,000 of taxable income to 10 per cent on incomes over $75,000.

OIL WORKERS TRICKED; STILL HAVE 12 HOURS

Cheyenne, Wyo., June 23.—Oil workers in this state realize they have been tricked into inactivity when an agitation against the 12-hour day started.

These workers are also agreed that a company "union," called "employes' council," was started by the oil companies and is maintained by them to keep the workers out of the regular trade union in this industry.

Many of these workers believed the honeyed words of the company "union" promoters and imagined this so-called "union" would hand them something. Instead, they are working 12 hours, and all public interest in them has subsided.

Several months ago the Survey printed an expose of conditions in Elk Basin, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., was shocked in the public press and emotional people imagined that this flash in the pan would amount to something. It had the desired effect because the workers failed to organize, all this publicity amounted to nothing.

The Wyoming Labor Journal, published in this city, warns the oil workers that there will be no shorter work day, no adequate wage, or any voice in working conditions until they organize.

This labor paper says that the "veiled promises" of young Mr. Rockefeller amounted to nothing.

"LAW 'N ORDER" GENTS SCORED BY OFFICIALS

Washington, June 23.—In an address before an association of college men, Assistant Attorney General Crim declared that professional politicians rarely give substantial aid to law enforcement.

"The crooked politician, with his machine, is always on the other side," said the assistant attorney general.

Mr. Crim insisted that the department of justice be taken out of politics and that the attorney general should not be a member of the cabinet.

"The widespread use of the expression, 'you're a credit to your department,' comes to me with my observation," said the assistant attorney general. "Sleeping sickness on the part of officials is a more accurate term."

The speaker made this reference to the hordes of secret detectives on the government pay roll:

"I doubt if any one knows in any fair degree of approximation how many federal detectives there are. Their classification on the pay rolls of the several departments of government precludes their identification. It will suffice to say that there are thousands of them, and that the difficulty in naming them is one that would make the founders of the republic shudder."

STEEL ORDERS LESSEN.

New York, June 23.—The inevitable slump has struck iron and steel mills. This was expected, as the terrific pace the past two months was out of the question. Mills are running at that time, and more steel ingots were produced than at any time during the world war, or any other time in the history of the country. Garylism would create the impression that this record-breaking condition is normal and that organized labor in this industry is necessary.

Now the production pendulum is swinging toward normal business conditions, but the cry of "labor shortage" will probably continue.

ONE DEFEAT ENOUGH.

Washington, June 22.—The state of Kansas, through its attorney general, has notified the United States supreme court that it will not ask a rehearing of the case involving the constitutionality of the Kansas industrial court law, which means that the state has abandoned all attempts to set wages by law. With this feature of the law removed, there is nothing left of it but an army of labor inspectors and a new code of laws easily they can be fooled by skilful politicians.

CLAY WORKERS GAIN

Washington, June 22.—In a letter to President Gompers, William Tracy, general secretary of the United Brick and Clay Workers of America, states that substantial gains are recorded for brick and clay workers in the Chicago district.

The agreement provides for the union shop, the check-off, the eight-hour day, and wage increase for all classes of workers.

WANT PRIVATE PROFITS OUT OF WORKERS' ILLS

Atlanta, Ga., June 23.—If the state takes the profit out of workmen's compensation insurance that is the "most dangerous and insidious of all socialistic movements," delegates to the convention of the national association of credit men were told.

Henry Swift Ives, secretary of the casualty information clearing house of Chicago, was the alarmist. He proved his ability to plead the cause of private accident insurance companies, and sang a wierd song about the collapse of civilization and the end of the principle of the rights of property if the state puts an end to profiteering in the death and broken bones of wage workers.

This profiteering is so revolting, that thinking citizens in increasing numbers are accepting the theory of state monopoly in industrial insurance. That is the issue these facts, and solemnly declared that democracy will not survive if profits can not be cut out of the death and injury of workers.

"Insurance is so intimately interwoven into the economic fabric of the nation that state operation of insurance means state control of the assured—the state abolitions is the socialist ideal as to both industry and the individual," he said. "The institutions of our representative democracy and the principle of private rights in property might weather for a time the governmental ownership of transportation and the utilities, but they could not survive government ownership of insurance."

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS INTERESTS CHURCH MEN

Milwaukee, June 23.—A conference on industrial relations will be held in this city on June 27 and 28 under the auspices of the Catholic conference on industrial problems. Trade union officials, employers and students of industrial questions will be present. The subjects to be discussed will include wages, collective bargaining and the relation of government to industry. The trade union speakers will be Matthew Woll, vice president of the A. F. of L.; John A. Voll, president of the Glass Bottle Blowers' association; George W. Lawson, secretary of the Minneapolis federation of labor; Miss Mary McEnerney, vice president of the Illinois state federation of labor, and John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago federation of labor.

At a mass meeting, at which Bishop Muldoon of Rockford, chairman of the department of social action of the national catholic welfare council, will preside, will close the conference.

PINCH-PENNY ECONOMY.

Boston, June 23.—A strike of longshoremen, on the army transport Antigone, barrage destined for the steamship Leviathan, illustrates the views of some public officials on "economy."

The longshoremen were not permitted to accompany the barrage down the bay because, representatives of the shipping board and U. S. army men were necessary to have paid them double time. To save the difference, and in the interest of economy army men were called upon.

The Leviathan is making a trial trip, following a complete overhauling. The shipping board invited more than 500 guests, who will be given a free trip for a week.

The members of the board can entertain 500 guests for a week at the expense of the taxpayers, but in the interest of economy a few longshoremen can not be paid overtime.

M'PARLAND IS DEAD; TYPO HEAD MOURNED

Indianapolis, June 23.—John P. McParland, secretary of the International Typographical union, died in a local hospital on June 16 of heart disease, caused by pneumonia.

Mr. McParland became ill at Binghampton, N. Y., on May 2, and was removed to this city the following week. After apparently recovering, he entered a sanatorium at Martinsville, where a relapse occurred. He was then brought to this city.

The deceased was born in Australia, and joined the Typographical union at Newcastle, New South Wales. He deposited his New South Wales union card in New York city in 1888 and later traveled through the eastern and middle west portion of the country. In 1906 he revisited Australia and worked in England on his return trip to his adopted country.

He was elected to second term as president of the I. T. U., being elected the first time in 1920, when he succeeded the late Marvin G. Scott.

The remains were interred at Grand Rapids, Mich., the home of his son. The funeral services were attended by a large number of trade unionists, including represe..tatives of international unions and heads of the I. T. U. The American Federation of Labor was represented by Secretary Frank Morrison.

The offices of the I. T. U. in this city were deluged with messages of sympathy at the passing of the printers' executive. One of the first was from President Gompers.

Charles P. Howard, first vice president, becomes president of the I. T. U. and the executive council will select a new first vice president.

ANTI-UNION DEFENDER FOOLS PUBLIC EASILY

New York, June 23.—The New York Times has started in to shield the Pennsylvania railroad from a public censure by the railroad labor board.

As is well known, the railroad ignored the board's order that the railroad's shop men be permitted to select representatives without interference by the company.

The average citizen would refuse to attempt to defend the railroad's autocracy, but this is how the New York Times did the job:

"There is no pretense that the Pennsylvania's plan for dealing with its own employes could be well conceived and has not been carried out to the general satisfaction of the public or that any of many of whom have been advanced under it. But the railroad labor board has felt constrained to issue a formal official 'censure' of the Pennsylvania company for not following the board's 'very specific' prescriptions laid down by the board."

In this connection it might be remembered that the Times is the "All the News That's Fit to Print."

MAY ATTEND CONVENTION

Washington, June 22.—Postmaster Harry H. New of Indiana, and postmasters at first and second class post offices are to be granted leave of absence without pay for such number of days as may be necessary, not exceeding 6, to enable them to attend the convention of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks at El Paso, September 3 to 7. Clerks may be allowed all or a portion of their annual leave with pay as a part of the leave of absence. The postmaster instructs postmasters to exercise their discretion as to the number of clerks that can be spared without detriment to the service.

Railroad Uses Ward Heelers' Tactics

Altoona, Pa., June 23.—The election of the Pennsylvania railroad's rump "union" was marked by methods that are common to ward politicians.

Workers have not given serious thought to the "union," despite claims of railroad officials and their press agents. The workers' attitude, however, was changed, when they realized that the rump "union" serves the company and it must not be treated lightly.

Men who were not at work were brought to the polls in automobiles. No excuses were accepted, and when workers attempted to "laugh off" the importance of the event, they were given to understand it would be to their interest to present themselves at the polls. All pretense of democracy was thrown aside. The phrases and platitudes that company officials have worn to a frazzle were not in evidence, as the workers were told "they must vote the ticket."

Workers declare the proceedings were nothing short of highhanding, and if attempted by any other persons the police reserves would be called out.

No one knows who is elected. The returns will be counted in Philadelphia.

The election is denounced by the Labor News, published in this city, which declares that the election was a plain case of misrepresentation, intimidation, coercion and high-handed piracy on the part of railroad officials who are using the rump "union" to "carry out their nefarious plans for the subjugation of the employes and destroying the principle of collective bargaining."

Of course, railroad officials will claim that a large majority of their employes voted for a retention of the rump arrangement, but they will not tell the public how they were induced to vote. Ask some of the shop men about it.

The railroad will tell the public that the shop men voted for the rump 'union,' but he will not tell how the shop men were forced to vote—how they had no choice but to vote for one of these fellows. A vote for any other candidate would not be counted.

The whole proposition is one where the shop men were sandbagged into voting it. The railroad official wanted them to do. If the matter was one for the shop men themselves to determine, why was it that railroad officials, gang foremen and other supervisory forces were running around securing votes?"

Pennsylvania R. R. Is Censured; Its Labor Policy Is Autocratic

Chicago, June 23.—After nearly two years the railroad labor board has publicly censured the Pennsylvania railroad management because of its attempt to dictate to workers through a rump "union," whom they shall chose as their representatives in negotiating with the company. It took the board just two days to censure the shop men for striking. The reprimand, the latter by the board, was made in July, 1921, against the company's policy of dictating who shall be representatives of its employes.

"No other railroad in the United States has taken a position similar to that adopted by the Pennsylvania in this case," says the board.

"If employe representation means anything at all, it signifies the right of a class of employes, through majority action, to select their own representatives to negotiate with the carrier agreements covering wages and working conditions. This is what Congress said it meant, but the shop crafts so far have been deprived of this plain, indisputable, simple right on the Pennsylvania system.

"While professing its acceptance of and obedience to the principle of employe representation, the carrier has set up a system which throttles the principle and establishes the representation of a coerced and subservient minority."

This rebuke follows a two-years' attempt of the railroad to establish its company "union," by having employes sign a form of ballot which called for representatives chosen by the company.

Two years ago the railroad labor board ordered the railroad to hold a new election. The board declared that the railroad has no more right to dictate to workers whom they shall elect as representatives than the workers would have to dictate to stockholders whom they shall select to represent them at the annual meeting of stockholders.

As proof that the company's plan does not represent the employes, the board said that "the carrier, in its own presentation to this board, admits that, exclusive of the Altoona shops, only 3,480 men voted, out of 33,104 entitled to vote, for the alleged representative who are now before the negotiating rules."

"In other words," continued the board, "only 10.5 per cent of these employes are represented in these negotiations, and 89.5 per cent are virtually disfranchised."

The board made the above statement in July, 1921, when it ordered the company to hold another election. The board prepared a sample ballot which permitted employes to vote for the bona fide shop men's union representatives, or members of a secession movement, or for "any other class," or "any other organizations." The railroad ignored this order, and the board prepared a censure. The company blocked by securing an injunction from Federal Judge Landis. This order was made permanent by Federal Judge Page, but it was set aside by the federal court of appeals. The company secured a writ from the United States supreme court, which ruled that the board has the right to publicly censure the company.

ROADS ON DEFENSIVE; ASK PUBLIC SUPPORT

Washington, June 23.—The railroads are appealing for popular support to retain the transportation act and to oppose any change in the valuation system of the interstate commerce commission.

Already the battle lines are drawn for the clash that will start with the opening of congress next December. Railroad officials are making speeches and being interviewed and are printing large advertisements in newspapers strategically located.

The recent railroad valuation conference at Chicago, presided over by Senator La Follette, is the match to the powder keg. Thirteen years ago Senator La Follette secured the passage of a law which authorized the interstate commerce commission to place a valuation on the railroads, and he is now charged with repudiating this law.

Senator La Follette and his associates in the valuation conference reply that they are not objecting to a genuine valuation of the railroads, but they do object to including fictitious values that have been pumped into the railroads. These values are responsible for increased freight rates, and around this point will revolve the fight that will start with the opening of congress next December.

From now on men who have been in the forefront of the great liberal and progressive forces of this country will be painted every hue of red by railroad financiers and their retainers.

AIR DEFENSE IS FUTILE SAYS BRITISH NOVELIST

London, England, June 23.—In a first page interview in the London Daily Herald, owned by organized labor, H. G. Wells, famous novelist, stamps as an "absurd contention" the claim that "the only way to avoid air raids is to attack them in the air."

The novelist is a council member of the air league of the British empire. He says most of the members of this organization "are a lot of commercial people purely out for plunder."

"I regard war now as a novelist, but as a practical man, and in the war of the future one bomb will wipe out the inhabitants of a small town, and a rain of bombs will destroy every living thing in a large city," he said.

"To avoid air raids there is such a fashion is not to defend this country from attack by air, for the country is virtually defenseless. All we can do is to retaliate and wipe out our enemies and do to them what they can do to us."

"I object to interested manufacturers attempting to stampede the government by placing large orders for munitions and aeroplane parts in the hands of private firms. They are, in most cases, inefficient, and in the present artificial development of civil aviation until aircraft manufacture is placed under national control."

The novelist declared for private research. He said aviation is the transport of the future.

WAR CONTROL NECESSARY

Washington, June 23.—The necessity for government operation of railroads during the war is shown by the announcement that the government and the Pennsylvania railroad have adjustments pending on the amount due the government because of improvements made while it was operating that system.

The railroad agrees to pay $96,000,000 to the government. The railroad operates through the eastern munition manufacturing territory. The government spent large amounts in extending terminals, building new tracks, and buying equipment. These improvements were made while the railroad would be undersecretary to market its bonds to secure funds.

LESS LABOR DEMAND.

Albany, N. Y., June 23.—Employment in factories of this state during May was 1 per cent lower than in April, reports the New York state department of labor. Decreases were reported in nearly two-thirds of the manufacturing industries of the state, but most of the increases were very slight or were due to seasonal causes. The department says there is nothing in these figures to indicate a reversal of the upward trend in manufacturing, which has been in effect since last summer.

JUDGE SCORES DIPLOMACY

Washington, June 22.—"Ordinary diplomacy has left the world in a terrible mess," declared Chief Justice McCoy of the District of Columbia supreme court in a speech in this city.

FIND SINGLE MATCH TO BLAME EXPLOSION

Vancouver, B. C., June 23.—A Chinaman who lost his life with 32 other miners is responsible for the Cumberland explosion on February 8 last, reports the provincial mines department.

The report is an amazing one. To convict the dead Chinaman the wreckage in the vicinity of the disaster was carried to the surface and put through sieves. As a result of this kind of work the head of the mines department announces that the burnt end of a match was discovered. On this evidence the Chinaman is charged with attempting to smoke, thereby causing an explosion of gas. The match theory, however, failed to strengthen this alleged circumstantial evidence by disclosing that in the same sieves stuck the pips or cigarette that the Chinaman should be expected to have. Another peculiar phase of this discovery was the absence of other matches on the person of the dead Chinaman.

In suggesting this safeguard to save the mine management, miners show that a man with but one match, attempting to steal a match in the mine, would hold the match close to his face, and that the explosion would burn his face. Instead of the victim's face being burned, but the Chinaman was not.

"CAN'T-STRIKE" COURT REMAINS FOR TWO YEARS

Topeka, Kan., June 23.—The supreme court's decision against the Kansas industrial court makes Allen's venture very costly to the state farm, but the court will continue for two years, as the legislature has appropriated sufficient funds to pay the salaries of the judges and their retinue of attorneys, department heads, statisticians, and stenographers. These will c..ntinue in office until 1925 unless Governor Davis can induce a new legislature to repeal the law.

According to the supreme court's decision, the industrial court can not set wages, but can enforce its decisions. These office holders will have nothing to do the next two years but draw fat salaries and permanently object to a useless expense.

Most of these objectors, however, were cheering Governor Allen when he jammed the law through the state legislature, and did not understand that hereafter it would not be inconvenienced by workers so unreasonable as to demand living wages.

During this hubbub Allen was at the pinnacle of his fame as a side show statesman. He was applauded by those who now demand that both he and his works be kicked off the state pay roll.

SPEED IS DANGEROUS HANDLING DYNAMITE

Washington, June 23.—The United States bureau of mines estimates that at least 75 per cent of all the industrial accidents with dynamite and other explosives are caused by hurrying the work and by taking chances where conditions are known to be dangerous. The bureau says that probably 20 per cent are due to carelessness, the rest having at least fairly excusable causes.

"The great essential in avoiding accidents is that inexperienced men should be made fully conscious of every movement of explosives and should be trained to 'play safe' until they are automatically careful all the time," says the bureau.

REJECT STEEL CLAIM.

Washington, June 22.—The shipping board has served notice on the Shipping Steel company that its claim for $8,500,000 has been disapproved and that the board will seek to recover the cost of the millions paid to the company under war contracts.

This company has failed to pay to hundreds of workers the money due them for a wage increase paid during the war by the war labor board.

REJECT OLD AGE PENSION

Springfield, Ill., June 23.—The state senate has defeated the old age pension bill which was introduced by a fraternal organization in cooperation with the state federation of labor, the United Mine Workers and the joint labor legislative board of Illinois.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Decatur, Ill., June 23.—The annual convention of the Illinois state federation of labor will convene in this city September 10 next.